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# Inside Front & Back Covers: Poetry

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## Oxygen

*I open Merriam Webster's,  
tenth edition,  
turn to I for inspiration,  
find the connection;  
what inspires me  
to pick up my steno book,  
my favorite pen,  
is what pulls air into my chest,  
pushes it out,  
allows for the rise and fall,  
the even exchange.  
Inhaled words,  
exhaled flow of ink,  
are elements of respiration,  
another way to breathe,  
survival itself.*



## *Wisp*

*In spring I take laundered sheets  
Warm from the sun  
To the back porch  
Shake hard the billowing fabric  
Over the rail and if a thread  
From an edge or seam  
Tries to loosen and let go  
If I tug and pull it free  
The wisp will float  
Carried in sweeping circles  
On the morning breeze  
And land in a patch of grass  
or wrap itself round a pine branch  
Or cling to the embryonic  
Pink-lobed leaves of an oak;  
I like to think a sparrow  
Or darting cardinal will find it  
Make off with the single strand in its beak  
Use the artifact of human comfort  
To strengthen the walls  
Or soften the lining of its nest  
Fly away with the offered bit of my life  
And weave it for a season into its own.*